

A few months ago, Sinclair Broadcasting decided to pre-empt a Newsline broadcast. Instead, they showed an incredibly biased propaganda "news" show that glorified war, rah-rahed Bush, and minimized the loss of human life in Iraq. (The show minimized the loss by portraying the number of military deaths as 2 numbers: deaths occurring during before Bush declared the war won and deaths from the reconstruction period, and then compared the former number with those lost in WWII as if to prove the current loss of our troops as insignificant.)

This program disgusted me, and prompted me to delete KDNL 30 from my television. I checked into my retirement accounts, as well as my daughter's college fund, to drop, if necessary, any investments in Sinclair Broadcasting. At the time, I warned others of this abuse of our public airwaves, as well as the danger of media consolidation.

Now, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is again a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.